

MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE WITH A CAMERA

The invention relates to a mobile communications device with a camera, which can be used, in addition to normal mobile telephone and data communications, to take photographs.

From patent document WO 95/00374 it is known a camera integrated into a mobile communications device, wherein the lens of the camera is always exposed like in a normal camera or is brought out from beneath a keypad, being thus protected when the camera is not in use. The lens is released e.g. by moving or lifting the keypad and returned to its place at the same time as the keypad is returned to its place.

A problem with the known devices is that an unprotected lens of a camera integrated into a mobile communications device is susceptible to dirt and scratches or a protected lens is difficult to bring out and return to the storage position.

From the patent document U.S. Pat. No. 5,666,159 it is known an electronic camera system wherein digital photographs taken with the system are wirelessly transmitted to many kinds of remote apparatus.

An object of the invention is to provide an ergonomic mobile communications device with a camera with which photographing is easy and wherein the lens of the camera is protected in such a manner that no special measures are required apart from the normal use of the mobile communications device to bring out the lens.

The objects are achieved using a construction not unlike the sliding cover in modern mobile communications devices, but at the same time dividing the mobile communications device into two roughly equal parts which are slid as far apart as possible before use. Function keys advantageously include at least three and not more than ten keys. Typical function keys include call start and end keys, arrow keys or corresponding browsing keys and memory management keys. Function keys may also include a known multifunction key.

The invention pertains to a mobile communications device with a camera, said device comprising a microphone, loudspeaker, display, keypad proper and a camera, and the mobile communications device comprises at least two parts covering each other alternatively completely in the transport position of the camera or partly in the operational position of the camera so that when the parts cover each other in the transport position of the camera the lens of the camera is protected, and in the operational position of the camera the lens of the camera is exposed. According to the invention an image can be projected through the lens of the camera and the display serves as a viewfinder for the camera by displaying the through the lens projected image to the user of the device and the lens of the camera is placed in the device essentially on a different side than the display.

In accordance with the invention, when the mobile communications device is opened so as to be employed in its proper use, the lens of the camera is brought out from between the parts of the device where it has been well protected from environmental effects such as dust and scratching objects. When in operational state, the mobile communications device can be used for taking photographs preferably by pressing one function key. The display of the mobile communications device serves as a viewfinder when aiming the camera and when the shutter is released, whereafter the image is stored in memory and the picture in the viewfinder is fixed on the display. The mobile communications device is also designed so as to have a shape easy to

grip so that when holding the mobile communications device in hand, one would not touch the lens of the camera. Preferred embodiments of the invention are presented in the dependent claims.

The invention will now be described in more detail with reference to the accompanying drawing wherein

FIG. 1 shows a frontal view of a mobile communications device,

FIG. 2 shows a rear view of a mobile communications device according to the invention, and

FIG. 3 shows a block diagram of a mobile communications device according to the invention.

FIG. 1 show a frontal view of a mobile communications device which according to the invention has a camera lens depicted in FIG. 2 in the rear. The mobile communications device comprises two parts, a radio part 1 and a hand part 2 including the keypad proper. In FIG. 1A the mobile communications device is open in its operational position wherein the hand part 2 has been slid out from beneath the radio part 1. In FIG. 1B the mobile communications device is closed but can be used e.g. for calls by means of the function keys. The mobile communications device further comprises an internal antenna 3, radio part 4, microphone 5, loudspeaker 6, display 7, function keys 8, battery 10 and charge interface 11, which can be used also when the mobile communications device is closed in the transport position. In the operational position, also the keypad 9 proper can be used. Furthermore, the hand part 2 of the mobile communications device has a shape 12 that is easy to grip. FIG. 1A shows in dashed lines both the outlines of the parts 3, 4, 10 inside the phone and the function keypad 8.

FIG. 2 show a rear view of a mobile communications device according to the invention. In FIG. 2A the mobile communications device is open in its operational position wherein the lens 13 of the camera according to the invention is exposed and ready to be used for taking photographs. In that state, the radio part 1 and hand part 2 have been slid as far apart as possible. A function key 8 is preferably utilized as a shutter release for the camera. In FIG. 2B the mobile communications device is closed in its storage position and cannot be used for taking photographs, but can be used for telephone calls by means of the function keys 8.

The location of the camera lens 13 on that side of the mobile communications device which is opposite to the display 7 makes it possible for the user to view the object of the photograph simultaneously both naturally past the mobile communications device and on the display 7. This construction is also advantageous to manufacture as the rear side of the mobile communications device can be manufactured using a single mould and the camera unit can be easily installed on top of a parallel printed circuit board unit in the radio part 1 of the mobile communications device. The lens 13 of the camera is well protected in the location described.

The battery 10 of the mobile communications device is located in that part of the mobile communications device which includes the keypad 9 proper in order to place the center of gravity as low as possible to make photographing easier in vertical position.

FIG. 3 shows a block diagram of the essential parts of a mobile communications device according to the invention. Speech voiced into a microphone 4 is taken by means of a transmitter 15 to a duplex switch 16 and further to an antenna 17. Speech received by the antenna 17 is taken by means of a receiver 18 to a loudspeaker 19 to be heard. All functions are controlled by a controller 20 connected to a keyboard 23 for providing input. Such input includes e.g. the release of the shutter of the camera 22. Photographs taken